



Naval Station Ingleside

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Press Advisory

Mine Warfare prepared to support Hurricane Rita recovery efforts



NAVAL STATION INGLESIDE, TEXAS -- Mine warfare ships are prepared to deploy in support of Hurricane Rita disaster recovery efforts. Currently, USS GLADIATOR (MCM 11), USS AVENGER (MCM 1), and USS PIONEER (MCM 9) are conducting unit level training and sonar calibration operations in the Gulf of Mexico. These ships are on stand-by to conduct survey operations of the Galveston and Houston safety fairways to help determine if they are free of any storm related debris and to ensure deep-draft traffic transit.

Other mine warfare ships are also preparing to assist in survey operations should they be called, as well as MH-53E helicopters from Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron

FIFTEEN (HM 15). Mine warfare assets that are standing by to support Hurricane Rita recovery efforts are under the tactical command of Mine Countermeasures Squadron ONE, commanded by Capt. Kevin Scott.

“We are looking forward to supporting Hurricane Rita recovery efforts,” said Capt. Jonathan Tobias, who was the tactical commander for mine warfare assets that surveyed the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP) and safety fairways of south Grand Isle. “We successfully applied our mine warfare warfighting skills in support of Joint Task Force Katrina -- surveying more than 250 nautical miles of safety fairways and 35 oil platforms. This was a critical tasking in support of putting U.S. oil production and shipping back into play.”